

HOUSE RESOLUTION 188

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Howard Hamilton upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those remarkable professionals who have dedicated a lifetime of valuable service to the Tennessee walking horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2006, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting twelve worthy people into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2006 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Howard Hamilton, who is renowned and respected throughout the walking horse industry; and

WHEREAS, Howard Hamilton was born and raised in Jackson, Tennessee, the son of Bill Hamilton and the late Gladys Hamilton; he graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in zoology and chemistry, and he taught chemistry and biology at Jackson State Community College before redirecting his talents to the real estate field; and

WHEREAS, seventeen years ago, Mr. Hamilton opened the Southern Serenity Ranch training facility, which is located on seventy acres in Cedar Grove, Tennessee, and began accepting horses; today, the ranch stables seventy-five horses from all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, beginning at the age of eight, Howard Hamilton attended the legendary Joe Webb's riding school and camp many summers during his childhood; today he holds his own week-long riding camp during the summer with the help of his wife and daughters; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Howard Hamilton is a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Humboldt where he serves as an elder, trustee, and adult choir member; and

WHEREAS, Howard Hamilton is a member of the Walking Horse Trainers Association, the TWHBEA, SSHBEA, and the National Spotted Saddle Horse Association; he holds a Master Judges License, and he has judged the Walking Horse Celebration five times (1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, and 2000); and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Howard Hamilton was named the Trainer of the Year in 2002, and he was inducted into the Mid-South Horse Show Association Hall of Fame in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Mr. Hamilton, along with Jimmy Cole and Carlyle Johnson, reorganized the Mid-South Horse Show Association, which is the oldest Tennessee Walking Horse Association (originally started in 1947); and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Howard Hamilton garnered his first Celebration victory with his dad's great plantation mare, Ebony's Princess, who also won the 1980 and 1981 World Grand Championships and seven other World Championships; in total, he has won over sixty world and world grand championships during his prestigious career of showing horses; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton serves as an advisor for the Graceland Estate, finding replacement horses with similar bloodlines to those horses originally bought by Elvis Presley; he trained Ebony's Double for Priscilla Presley in preparation for exhibition at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, beginning the tradition for the Elvis Presley Challenge Trophy, which is presented in the 4 Year Old World Grand Champion class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton enjoys the loving companionship of his wife, Clarenita, and they are the proud parents of three daughters, Lauren Clare, Jenna Lee, and Anna Diamond; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Howard Hamilton has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FORTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Howard Hamilton on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, as we salute his stalwart devotion to the walking horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.